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New York, New York 10040

4 August 1999

5001 '99 AUG 11 P2:19

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: DOCKET NUMBERS

98 N - 1230
96 P - 0418
97 P - 0197

Dear Sirs:

I am extremely concerned about the opportunity to ban forced molting of hens. This practice which the U. S. Egg industry forces on millions of hens to manipulate egg production is an extremely cruel practice which causes infectious diseases in hens, eggs and consumers of eggs.

The Food & Drug Administration has an obligation to do much more than put Bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures.

In fact, the Food & Drug Administration should prohibit the practice of forced molting because forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems.

In addition, the Food & Drug Administration has the jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health.

To conclude, the Food and Drug Administration must ban the forced molting of laying hens because FORCED MOLTING IS A PRIMARY CAUSE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN HENS, EGGS, AND CONSUMERS OF EGGS. THE CRUELTY OF THE PRACTICE AND CONTAMINATION ARE LINKED.

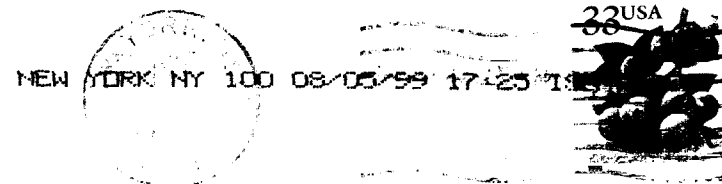
If, in point of fact, the Food & Drug Administration was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting, THE PETITION SHOULD BE GRANTED WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

Sincerely,


Lavinia T. Severeyn

96P-0418

C146



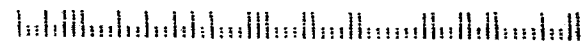
DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

5630 FISHERS LANE, ROOM 1061

ROCKVILLE, MD 20852

20857-0001



CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C146

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C147
96P-0418/ C146